## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) An apparatus for orienting a part, ~~the part having been detached from a web having a plurality of parts;~~ the apparatus comprising:

a machine for detaching the part from a web having a plurality of parts, the machine including a die that includes a die opening through which the detached part passes; and

a duct including an interior sloped side and an opposing vertical edge, the interior sloped side and the opposing vertical edge creating a first opening for receiving the part, a second opening that is smaller than the first opening, and a third opening that is larger than the second opening; [;]

~~wherein the first, second and third opening are vertically aligned along at least one edge thereof; and~~

wherein the interior sloped side partially obstructs a first side of the part while allowing a second side of the part to pass through the second opening unobstructed so that the part exits the third opening in a substantially vertical orientation.

2. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1, ~~further comprising:~~

~~a machine for detaching the part from the web;~~

wherein the duct is coupled to the machine ~~so that the part is received by the first opening of the duct after being detached from the web~~.

3. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim [2] 1, wherein the machine further includes a punch ~~and a die, the die including an opening through which the part passes before the part is received by the duct~~.

4. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the interior sloped side is made of one of the group consisting of polymeric material and polished metal.

5. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the interior sloped side is planar.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the part has a curled shape, the apparatus further comprising:

a container for holding the part, the container including an open end and a convex contoured end;

wherein the open end of the container is coupled to the duct to receive the part from the third opening of the duct; and

wherein the convex contoured end of the container substantially conforms to the curled shape of the part.

8. (Original) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the container accommodates a plurality of parts with a curled shape stacked upon each other.

9. (Original) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the container is coupled to the duct using a u-shaped channel.

Claims 10-20 (Canceled)

21. (Currently amended) An apparatus for orienting a part having a curled shape, the part having been detached from a web having a plurality of parts, the apparatus comprising:

a duct including:

a first edge having an outer vertical side, an interior sloped side, and a support member there between; and

an opposing edge, the interior sloped side and the opposing edge creating a first opening for receiving the part[,] and a second opening, ~~that is smaller than the first opening, and a third opening that is larger than the second opening,~~

~~wherein the first, second and third opening are vertically aligned along at least one edge thereof;~~

wherein the interior sloped side partially obstructs a first side of the part while allowing a second side of the part to pass through the second opening unobstructed so that the part exits the second opening in a substantially vertical orientation; and

a container for holding the part, the container including an open end and a convex contoured end;

wherein the open end of the container is coupled to the duct to receive the part from the ~~third~~ second opening of the duct; and

wherein the convex contoured end of the container substantially conforms to the curled shape of the part.

22. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the container accommodates a plurality of parts with a curled shape stacked upon each other.

23. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the container is coupled to the duct using a u-shaped channel.

Claims 24-28 (Canceled)

29. (Currently amended) An apparatus for orienting a part, the apparatus comprising:

a die having a die opening, wherein the die opening comprises a substantially rectangular vertical cross section that allows the part to pass therethrough; and

a duct disposed below the die opening, wherein the duct comprises an interior sloped side that creates a first opening for receiving the part after the die opening and a second opening that allows the part to pass therethrough;

wherein the interior sloped side partially obstructs a portion of the die opening, and wherein the interior sloped side partially obstructs a first side of the part while a second side of the part passes through the second opening unobstructed so that the part exits the second opening in a substantially vertical orientation.

30. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 29, further comprising a container disposed below and vertically aligned with the second opening for receiving and stacking a plurality of parts.

31. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 30, wherein the container comprises a convex contoured end.

32. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 30, wherein the container is coupled to the duct using a u-shaped channel.

33. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 29, further comprising a punch for detaching the part from a web having a plurality of parts.

34. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 29, wherein the second opening is smaller than the first opening.

35. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 34, wherein the interior sloped side further creates a third opening that is larger than the second opening, and wherein the first, second and third openings are vertically aligned along an edge opposite the interior sloped side.

36. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 29, wherein the duct includes a plurality of substantially parallel interior sloped sides.

37. (New) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the first opening is smaller than the die opening, and wherein the interior sloped side partially obstructs a portion of the die opening.